

2-17-2012

The Good 5 Cent Cigar (2/17/2012)

University of Rhode Island

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The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

Volume 61
Issue 61

'Just what this country needs'
www.ramcigar.com

Friday
February 17, 2012

Student involved in fatal car accident remembered fondly by peers, teachers

BY FARAH CASALINI
News Editor

The University of Rhode Island is mourning the loss of a member of its family after senior Erica Knowles, 23, died in a car accident just past midnight on Wednesday.

Knowles was in the backseat of the vehicle when the driver crashed into a telephone pole while traveling east on Torrey Road in Wakefield, a statement issued by URI said. She was wearing her seatbelt, and was the only fatality.

"The entire community offers its condolences to Erica's family and friends," Vice President of Student Affairs Thomas Dougan said.

The 23-year-old was a senior journalism and women's studies major who was determined to finish her degree "in face of difficulties" she endured throughout her academic career, Dougan said.

URI issued an email to all those on the listserve early Thursday afternoon. The email informed students of the acci-



Courtesy of Facebook

Senior Erica Knowles, 23, passed away this Wednesday after being involved in a fatal car crash.

dent and offered condolences.

"We will miss her greatly, and we offer our thoughts and prayers to her family, friends, professors and classmates," the statement said.

When not attending classes, Knowles worked at Turtle Soup in Narragansett, wrote poetry and enjoyed photography. This past winter, some of her photographs were displayed in "The

World's Smallest Art Gallery," a kiosk on the South County Bike Path.

Her classmates had nothing but positive remarks to say about Knowles, describing her as sweet, hard-working and generous.

"She just gave off a cheerful vibe," senior Emily Zaccardi said.

"She was one of those people that you meet and you could tell she had a bright future," senior Giana Campanale said.

Journalism Department Chair John Pantalone said, while she was a quiet student, he could tell she worked hard.

Jody Lisberger, Director of Women's Studies, also described Knowles as a hard worker, saying she was a "gifted artist, poet, writer and thinker."

"She could put pen on paper and write the most fluid, insightful things," she said. "It's so sad, especially when it's someone with such potential, so on the rise."

Barbara Meagher-Smith, a

Continued on page 2

Local alumnus talks teamwork, teaching, years as URI student

BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

University of Rhode Island alumnus and Pilgrim High School science teacher Michael Lobdell reminded students that collaboration is the key to success.

"It all comes down to collaboration," he said. "People need to collaborate and learn from each other to get better."

Lobdell, who graduated from URI in 1996 with a degree in zoology and then a master's in education, has been teaching science at Pilgrim High School for seven years. He was recently recognized as a 2011 Milken Educator Award, which gives \$25,000 to teachers across the nation.

"The recognition that comes from an award like this is exciting, and a little bit scary," said Lobdell. "With this new recognition, I can talk about all the people and organizations that have helped me to become the teacher that I am."

Lobdell added that he does feel additional pressure and responsibility from receiving this award, and has since become more involved in education at the state level, joining the Educators Action Committee headed by Education Commissioner Deborah Gist and also the steering committee for Race to the Top.

Lobdell also said he owes much of his success as a teacher to his time at URI.

"I had so many really good professors at URI that made the content so interesting, and kind of validated my choice to go into science and learn as much about science as I could," he said.

In particular, Lobdell remembered Professor Clarence Goertemiller as a teacher who was always available to him, and encouraged his desire to go into teaching.

"I also remember URI specifically for helping me realize that

Continued on page 2

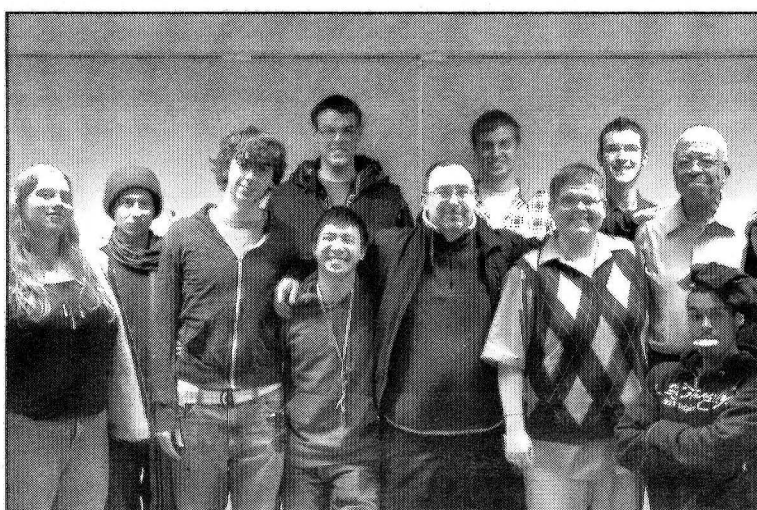
Campus's first 'Queer Town Hall' held to discuss opinions on issues, possible changes at LGBTQ Center

BY BRIANNA RESTO
News Reporter

Last night members of the LGBTQ community, faculty members and students met in the basement of the Multicultural Center at the University of Rhode Island to discuss potential changes taking place at the LGBTQ Center.

The first-ever "Queer Town Hall" was organized by the new director of the LGBTQ Center, Dr. Elizabeth "Annie" Russell and Instructional Program Coordinator Joseph Santiago.

During the meeting, individuals were able to let out the feelings that they had about how the center is currently being run and give their own ideas as to what they would like to see happen



Amy St. Amand | Cigar

Members of the University of Rhode Island's LGBTQ Club held a Town Hall Meeting this Thursday night in the Multicultural Center.

in the future within the center.

Each person was able to have a say, if they wanted it, and that, Russell says she believes, will make the difference in the future.

"Tonight really clarified a lot of things," Russell said regarding the meeting. Her goal was to have each individual there weigh in on issues regarding the center so solutions may be worked

towards as a unit.

Since Russell has taken over as director of the LGBTQ Center, many changes have been suggested. Last night's meeting was the first step in reform.

"We made a lot of progress tonight," Russell said, during the two-hour-long meeting.

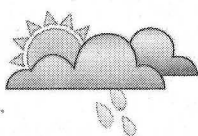
The students, although new to Russell's method of running things, were open to her ideas and responded enthusiastically, while Russell mostly sat back and stayed silent in order to observe and take in what the students were saying.

Notes were taken on each subject that had been brought up and will be acted upon at a meeting on Friday.

The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast
50 °F

Rain, rain, go
away...



Nickel Brief:

Want to know who drives the blue Subaru with the pink, cheetah-print rims? Check out Tuesday's issue.

Find out the results of the Student Senate elections.

See page 2.

CAMPUS

Spring Student Senate election results released

Unofficial: Subject to Challenge

-At-Large Representatives

Chris CICERO- 124
Andrew SHARKEY- 119
Kristen STEWART- 117
Brittany FERREIRA- 99
Tanya JONES- 99
Kyle WEINREICH- 99
Brittany DOBRZYNSKI- 96
Andrew PILKINGTON- 93
Pitu SIM- 93
Erica PISHDADIAN- 91
Ryann ROSSI- 91
John Paul GODDARD- 90
Molly SMITH- 87
Patrick BREHIO- 85
Gabriel LAMOUREUX- 85
Matthew KILDUFF- 77
Adiva MUSALI- 51
Linda REYES- 42
J. Courtney DIMAIO- 4
Kevin MIRANDOU- 4
Rosemarie THOMAS- 3
Dave WELESKO- 3
Caleb HEIKES- 2
Elliot BAXTER- 2
John MCCLAFFERTY- 2
Mark HILL- 2
Ethan ZAWATSKY- 2

-College Representatives

-Arts & Sciences

David WELESKO- 44
Pitu SIM- 2

Sean KELLEY- 1
Stephen COLBERT- 1
Paul DELVECCHIO- 1
Rick JAMES- 1
J. Courtney DIMAIO- 1

-Business

Derek MURPHY- 15
J. Courtney DIMAIO- 4

-Engineering

Brian SIT- 9
Charle ARGO- 1

-Environmental & Life Sciences

Rosemarie THOMAS- 25
Pitu SIM- 1

-Human Sciences & Services

Caleb HEIKES- 11
Kevin MIRANDOU- 1

-Nursing

Kevin G. MIRANDOU- 9
Jennifer BERNTSEN- 1
Andi MARCHETTI- 1

-Pharmacy

Kristen KNOPH- 17
Jaclyn CUSAMANO- 2
Kevin GAUL- 2
John GODDARD- 1

-University College

Ethan ZAWATSKY- 50
Emily DIONNE- 48
Matthew KILDUFF- 2
Pitu SIM- 2

Write to us!
cigar@etal.uri.edu

Accident

From page 1

journalism professor who taught the television news course Knowles was enrolled in, said Knowles was "a pleasure to know" and she admired her because, despite her hardships, she never wanted special help.

"I really adore her for valuing her education," she said.

Services for Knowles will be held this Saturday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. at the Peacedale Congregational Church.

Alumnus

From page 1

I had skills as a writer that needed to be developed further," he said. "As a teacher, I cannot begin to tell you the value of having good writing and communications skills."

Lobdell said he uses these skills in day-to-day life as a teacher, from writing reports and lesson plans, to communicating with students.

"It enables me to make connections with kids, and any way I can help a student in the classroom is rewarding and productive," Lobdell said.

At the same time, Lobdell explained that connecting with every student can be difficult.

"There are so many barriers to teaching and learning in schools," he said. "Getting growth out of every student all the time is challenging."

Apart from teaching,

Rhody pic of the day



Alex Bouthillier | Cigar

Sigma Pi fraternity hold their first annual Rail Jam to support the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

Lobdell is also very active in various organizations at Pilgrim High School, including the science fair, the Respect Committee, After-Prom Extravaganza and the Response to Intervention program, which reaches out to children struggling academically.

Lobdell encouraged current URI students to use the resources on campus to as much as possible, and again, emphasized collaboration.

"I think the sky's the limit at any level, especially at college," he said.

Upcoming year shaping up to be promising for films

BY MATT GOUDREAU
Entertainment Writer

Last year will certainly go down as a memorable year in films. We witnessed the end of the "Harry Potter" saga, several faithful comic book adaptations and a triple threat of terrible Adam Sandler films. While I viewed the year as solid overall, 2012 is certainly shaping up to be an amazing year of films, with some highly anticipated blockbusters. We will witness the superhero team-up of the century, the conclusion of Christopher Nolan's "Batman" series and even relaunched of some beloved franchises. As much as I am looking forward to these, there are a good number of films I feel have been underexposed and overlooked. With all that said, let's begin with a prequel to one of the most influential series of all time.

In 1979, Ridley Scott perfectly blended science fiction and horror with "Alien." The film was an instant success and has been frequently parodied and recognized by critics as one of the finest horror films of the last 40 years. After an amazing sequel, the series took a turn for the worst with two disappointing

sequels and a failed crossover with the equally influential "Predator" series.

Luckily, Scott is returning to hopefully salvage the series with the upcoming prequel "Prometheus." The key reason why "Alien" was and still is effectively scary is due to the claustrophobic nature of the film, which the sequels abandoned in favor of reckless action. While "Aliens," the James Cameron helmed sequel, effectively mixed action with great characters and setting, the later installments failed. With an all-star cast including Michael Fassbender, Noomi Rapace, and Guy Pierce, "Prometheus" is shaping up to be the saving grace for the "Alien" saga.

Speaking of new relaunched, I recently sat down and saw the newly released trailer for "The Bourne Legacy." Initially, I was very hesitant because I am not the biggest fan of the recent trilogy. While I found the story and action compelling, I didn't like Matt Damon as an action star because I didn't find it believable. With all that said, this new trailer blew me away. I'm glad to see the screenwriter of the original tri-

gy, Tony Gilroy, taking the helm as director, as I know he can do thriller-style films following the suspenseful "Michael Clayton." Jeremy Renner has been nothing short of impressive in recent years, and it was a good feeling to see my favorite current actor Edward Norton in the trailer as the antagonist. Expectations seem rather high based off that trailer and I'm sure this film won't disappoint.

From action to period drama, Paul Thomas Anderson is certainly no stranger to the latter. Although he has only directed five films, each one stands out as a great film. Any director who can get me to like an Adam Sandler movie deserves a lot of merit. His most recent film, "There Will Be Blood" is my choice as the best film of the 2000s. I'm eagerly awaiting his newest film "The Master," a post-World War II drama with a plot involving the birth of a new controversial religion. The plot is eerily similar to the birth of Scientology, with the always-great Phillip Seymour Hoffman portraying the main character. Anderson has not disappointed me yet, and this sounds like a

contender during award season.

One of the reasons "There Will Be Blood" was so critically lauded was due to the mesmerizing performance from Daniel Day-Lewis. Lewis is easily one of the best actors working today, despite being extremely selective about the films he chooses to commit to. When Lewis agrees to a project, he practically devotes himself to it and embodies the character on and off camera.

Lewis is starring in Spielberg's upcoming biography of Abraham Lincoln in "Lincoln." Despite my controversial views on Spielberg, I cannot wait for this film, as I am a huge scholar of American history. With a strong supporting cast including some A-list stars like Sally Field and Tommy Lee Jones, this may very well be the film that brings Spielberg back to me in a positive manner.

The year 2012 is shaping up to be the year of the genre film, and could finally be the year that garners Leonardo DiCaprio an Academy Award. I am a huge admirer of his work and I don't think he gets proper recognition from the general public or the Academy. With that said, he's

starring in two films next year sure to create buzz during Oscar season.

DiCaprio is playing the title role in the film adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel "The Great Gatsby," which seems to be a perfect fit for those of you who have read the book. He is also starring in a huge ensemble including Samuel L. Jackson and Sasha Baron Cohen in Quentin Tarantino's spaghetti western, "Django Unleashed." Tarantino is easily one of my favorite directors because he is a master of screenwriting and blending genres. This film appears to be a homage to the old style westerns of the '50s and '60s, but with his trademark humor and violence.

While the blockbusters such as "The Dark Knight Rises" and "The Avengers" are sure to dominate the box office, I hope the films I have mentioned are given proper marketing to compete. The films I just discussed are shaping up to make 2012 a stand-out year for films, even more so than 2011 because of how much anticipation is built around the comic book films alone. Fingers crossed that we are not disappointed this year.

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'The Vow' overcomes treacle with honest acting, story

BY SARAH-ROSE MARCUS
Contributing Entertainment Writer

As one of the only females on the entertainment team, I am sometimes assigned to tasks that no college-aged male would ever partake in. While I have no problem covering most girly topics such as theme party costumes or fashion week, there is one assignment that I always dread: being sent to review a romantic tearjerker.

When I was sent to go see "The Vow" last week, my attitude was annoyed, cynical and pessimistic. However, I walked out of the movie feeling light and happy, and was pleasantly surprised to have enjoyed myself in some of the film's honest moments.

The premise of the movie seems a bit tired and depressing, as it is based around a woman named Paige (Rachel McAdams) who gets amnesia after a car crash. The movie begins with a brief view of her love story with Leo (Channing Tatum), showing the audience how sickeningly in love they were before their lives were turned upside down. Once the accident happens, Paige wakes up to remember her entire life besides the five years in which she met and fell in love with Leo.

While the beginning of the film was slow, the action speeds up as the audience wonders what will happen to the couple when Paige is freaked out by the life and the husband that she woke up to. Tatum is used to acting as a deep and brooding romantic, but he shows a new dimen-

sion this time by using some comedic elements to brighten up the drama. He perfects the art of being awkwardly and embarrassingly funny, which makes the audience feel bad for him (in a sweet and endearing way, rather than a desperately pathetic way).

Most moviegoers are already aware that McAdams has more talent of the two, and she proves this in her realistic portrayal of a woman conflicted by both her old life and her new life. Her character, Paige, wakes up with her last memory of being in law school, living with a ritzy suburban family and being engaged to a man named Jeremy who seems great on paper. However, the audience learns that in her new life with Leo she had abandoned her family, her money and her past.

McAdams' well-rounded acting causes even the audience to second-guess her new life with Leo, sucking us into the plot to find answers to our questions. It is clear that this movie is her own show, with Tatum as the cute, sweet puppy-dog along for the ride.

While this movie may not be the best romantic drama ever made, the depth of Rachel McAdams' performance makes it worthwhile to see this Valentine's week. If you are someone who is dragged to this movie, you will be relieved to find that it has some relatable moments and uncomfortable humor that will make your experience less painful than you think.

Hungarian film about Roma killings has first show in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — A Hungarian film with an amateur Roma cast that takes its cue from a 2008-9 series of deadly attacks on Roma, or Gypsies, is making its debut at the Berlin film festival, and its director hopes that it will "make a difference" in the face of discrimination.

Bence Fliegauf's "Just the Wind" showed Thursday at the festival, where it is one of 18 films competing for the top Golden Bear award.

It depicts the life of a Roma family — long-suffering, grimly silent mother Mari (Katalin Toldi), her elderly invalid father and two children who struggle to make ends meet and dream of emigrating one day to Canada — against the quietly menacing backdrop of a series of murders in their out-of-the-way neighborhood.

Roma, who make up an estimated 5-8 percent of Hungary's 10 million people, battle deep prejudice and have been deeply affected by the loss of guaranteed jobs after the end of communism over 20 years ago.

"Of course I hope that this movie is going to make a difference," Fliegauf told reporters at the festival, though he stressed that he hadn't embarked on the project for any ideological reason.

In tackling the problem openly, "I hope my movie is going to do something for the image of Hungary," he added.

Four men are on trial in Budapest accused of carrying out attacks in nine villages between July 2008 and August 2009 in which six Roma were shot to death, including a 5-year-old boy. Five sustained serious injuries.

Prosecutors allege the suspects were motivated partly by vigilantism, and wanted to frighten and provoke the Roma community into acts of reprisal.

Toldi, who said she had never acted in a movie or even rehearsed before, recalled facing such discrimination.

"We were scared," Toldi said of her reaction to the 2008-9 killings. "I was wondering what would happen if they came to me."

Director Fliegauf said getting the cast together was a complex challenge and a "very long process," requiring him to go out into the country to find actors.

"I said, why not me? I could be part of this movie," Toldi said. "I was a bit scared because I had never done anything like this before."

ON LOVE:

"To love is to value... The man who does not value himself, cannot value anything or anyone."

AYN RAND author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*
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www.AynRand.org #love3

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Rhody SPORTS



Not So Average Joe: Spurs can't get any love

BY JOE HOLLENBECK
Sports Editor

Two weeks ago, I talked about how the San Antonio Spurs were going to become serious contenders for the NBA Championship this season. But if you check any sports related media site, you'll probably have trouble finding out that the Spurs have won nine straight games and are in the midst of their annual road trip, which usually defines their season.

And what will you see headlining the ESPN basketball page online? Stories about loudmouth all-stars whose teams are not in second place for their conference.

Yes, we all know Jeremy Lin won another game for the New York Knicks, but their winning streak is only seven games and they still aren't a .500 team.

So why are my Spurs getting the shaft? It hardly seems fair that a team with 21 wins and an all-star reserve player in Tony Parker doesn't get any

media attention, ever. Meanwhile, the basketball world seems to be more interested in where Orlando Magic forward Dwight Howard might end up playing even though, realistically speaking, he won't leave Orlando until the end of the season.

LeBron James is always good for some unnecessary headline in the media, after all he wrote the book on stupid, arrogant specials that birth hatred from your hometown. But is it really fair? I don't think so.

In my opinion the teams that play the best and win the most games should receive the most coverage because there is a lot to discuss when they're playing well. Instead, I must hear about the melodramatic crap that has become my beloved NBA.

Does anyone remember what the NBA was like before 2005? Before all of these drama queen star players were created? It was awesome.

Watching Kobe Bryant

and Shaquille O'Neal dominate in Los Angeles while Tim Duncan and the incredible Spurs defense battle for the west was way more entertaining than watching players move out of the way for LeBron so he could dunk the ball.

Teams were better back then. There was nothing I'd rather watch than the 2004 NBA finals with the Spurs and the Detroit Pistons. That was easily the most even matched finals ever.

Now, we are forced to hear about five or six teams week in and week out until the playoffs begin and the usual teams start winning. Teams like the Spurs, the Boston Celtics and the Lakers.

I'll leave you all with this: Tim Duncan has four championship rings and LeBron James has none. Unfortunately, you never hear about what Tim Duncan is up to, and you can't go one day without hearing a new update from the James' show. How is that fair?

'Rudy Effect' sure to capture hearts of fans

BY JEFF DODDIO
Contributing Sports Reporter

Throughout the history of sports, there have been certain stories, certain players, who capture the hearts of the country. The "little guy" who wins the big game; the team that makes a "miracle" happen. Whatever the case, these stories truly pull at the heartstrings of fans and of the world as a whole. They're the stories that make us feel good, the ones who give us that little extra emotional push. I like to look at this as the "Rudy Effect."

I named this phenomenon after one of, if not the most famous sports movie ever, simply titled, "Rudy." The story of a poor, working class boy whose one dream is to play football at the very prestigious Notre Dame University. The problem is, however, he lacks the grades, the money, and most importantly, the size and talent. He struggles to get into the school, but finally gets accepted. He also fulfills his one true dream of playing football by earning a spot on the practice squad and getting to play in the final game of his senior season, for two plays.

Whether or not you may like the film, you can attest that it is the ultimate feel-good sports movie. It makes you feel empowered, whether you play sports or you can't throw a ball more than five feet. This story has had many successors, equally getting at the true emotions of its witnesses.

The amazing 1980s "Miracle on Ice" is one of those few sports stories, which captured the emotions of many fans, and even an entire country. The underdog United States hockey team was up against the Goliath-

like Soviet team. As the announcer of that historic game said, in the final seconds, "Do you believe in miracles? YES!" These are the types of moments that truly cause people to love sports. Luckily for us, these moments are continuously happening.

We can see the "Rudy Effect" when looking at Tim Tebow and even more recently, Jeremy Lin. How touching was it when Tebow led the Denver Broncos to the AFC Divisional Playoff game, after being criticized by the media? How can you not love the super-religious, morally sound quarterback from Florida? With an orthodox throwing mechanism, he led the NFL's least conventional offense. When Tebow threw to his wide receiver against the Steelers to win on the first play in overtime, it was nothing short of magical.

How can you not love seeing a young, undrafted point guard from Harvard, who was a day within getting cut, single-handedly take over the New York Knicks and provide them with a huge emotional boost. His current seven-game scoring outburst has not only propelled him into the starting lineup, but into the hearts of the fans. "Linsanity" has taken over the NBA, and similar to Rudy, the country has backed the "little guy."

Whether or not you follow sports, you can agree that when seeing the underdog get the big win, it's inspiring. It's nice to see the player who never gets his name called capitalize off of that one chance. That one instant where he sees the slimmest of opportunity, and makes something great out of it. You may not care for the sport, but we do and will always love the "Rudys."

Women's hockey team ends season on high note, defeats University of Buffalo

BY JONATHAN SHIDELER
Sports Staff Reporter

The No. 3 ranked University of Rhode Island women's hockey team was triumphant in both games this weekend, as the team traveled north to end their regular season against the University of Buffalo.

Head coach Beth McCann was happy with the results and the way her team performed to cap off the year.

"It's nice to end the regular season with a win," McCann said. "Everyone contributed and I hope the team can bring that game energy into the playoffs."

The Rams opened up the weekend with a 5-1 victory over Buffalo. It was a tightly contested first period as Junior Lauren Hillberg registered the first goal of the game at the 16:16 mark to give her team a one goal advantage.

The Rams ramped up the pressure early on in the second period when freshman Cassandra Catlow scored a power play goal one minute in, with senior Meghan Birnie and sophomore Lauren Lanoie assisting on the goal.

Senior captain Johanna Leskinen scored another power play goal for her team in the final two minutes of the game, while fellow senior Danika Korpacz scored a goal of her own in between the two power play goals.

At the 11:47 mark in the final period, Leskinen scored the fifth goal of the game for her team to put an end to the day.

On Sunday, the Rams picked up where they had left off offensively the day before. The Rams register a total of three goals in the first period. Hillberg started the team off on the right foot yet again with a power play goal at the 6:17 mark.

Leskinen scored unassisted two minutes after that giving her 25 goals on the season. At the end of the period, freshman Sidney Collins and sophomore Elizabeth Lanata teamed up assisting freshman Bethany Ramsey for her second goal of the year.

In the second period, sophomore Alsiha DiFillipo found the back of the net as Korpacz assisted on the play.

In the third and final period, the Rams put in three more goals. Scoring them

were Lanoie, Catlow and senior Kayla Robidoux to end Sunday's game with a final score of 7-2.

McCann used both of her goalies in an effective manner this weekend; sophomore goalie Kayla DiLorenzo played just short of 50 minutes as she stopped all eight shots she saw. While junior Megan McGhie played just over 70 minutes and stopped 20 of the 23 shots she faced.

The latest rankings of the American Collegiate Hockey Association came out this week as the Ram's ended the season ranked as No. 3, which was no surprise to Coach McCann, but she knows the work isn't done yet.

"It's nice to finish in the top five but we still have some work to do if we expect to end the season the way we would like," McCann said.

This weekend, the Rams will host their annual alumni game on Sunday, then, starting Feb. 24, the Rams will be the host team of this year's Eastern Collegiate Women's Hockey League tournament where support from the fans could be the advantage that puts the team over edge if they expect to be victorious.

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